UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/45/PV.73
2 May 1991

ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 29 April 1991, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. de MARCO (Malta)

- Tribute to the memory of his late Majesty King Olav V of Norway
- Earthquakes in Costa Rica and Panama
- Expression of sympathy to the Government and people of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations
- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work [8] (continued)

  (a) Reopening of agenda items 17 (h), 79 (b), 118 and 126 (c)

  (b) Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Secretary-General

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

91-64190/A 4766V (E)

- Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations: report of the Fifth Committee [134] (continued)

- Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations [117] (continued)

  (a) Report of the Secretary-General

  (b) Letter from the Permanent Representative of Ghana

  (c) Letter from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg

  (d) Letter from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

- Programme of work

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS LATE MAJESTY KING OLAV V OF NORWAY

The PRESIDENT: It is my sad duty to recall to the General Assembly the death of His Majesty King Olav V of Norway, which occurred on 17 January 1991.

Olav was the Crown Prince, then the King to three generations of Norwegians - from the newly won independence in 1905, through two world wars and the rebuilding of a devastated country, to the prosperity and the internationalization of recent decades.

King Olav V was widely perceived as a solid guarantee for Norway's reliability and commitment in international co-operation. He took a keen interest in, and had extensive knowledge and experience of, international affairs. In that context, he was a strong supporter of the United Nations and he visited the Organization on several occasions.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I should like to convey my profound sympathy to His Majesty King Harald V, his family and the people of Norway.

May I invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of His late Majesty King Olav V of Norway.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Norway.

Mr. HUSLID (Norway): I should like to thank you most sincerely, Mr. President, for the noble words you have just said. Through you, I thank also all the representatives and other good friends here, including the Secretary-General, for the tribute they have paid to the memory of our late King Olav, both at the time of his death and again this morning.

(Mr. Huslid, Norway)

King Olav was very dear to us in Norway, and therefore we are very grateful for the tribute that has been paid here to his memory.

EARTHQUAKES IN COSTA RICA AND PANAMA

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of all the members of the General Assembly, may I extend our deepest sympathy to the Governments and the peoples of Costa Rica and Panama on the tragic loss of life and extensive material damage that have resulted from the recent earthquakes.

May I also express the hope that the international community will show its solidarity and respond promptly and generously to any request for help.

I now call on the representative of Costa Rica.

Mr. TATTENBACH (Costa Rica) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the Government of Costa Rica and of my people, I have the honour of expressing our heartfelt and sincere gratitude for the solidarity evidenced in your words, Mr. President, about my country and the sister Republic of Panama. It is certainly true that at a time of anguish and pain the support and understanding of others are of special significance. In this case, the international solidarity evidenced through your attitude, Sir, will be a source of consolation to Costa Ricans.

The earthquake that struck the Atlantic coast of Costa Rica and part of that of Panama registered 7.4 on the Richter scale and caused considerable loss of human life; indeed, it has not yet been possible to determine the exact figure because victims continue to be found under the debris. What I would term extremely grave damage has also been caused to the country's infrastructure. The main highway to the Atlantic was severely damaged in many areas, and bridges over the same route collapsed and fell into the rivers that

(Mr. Tattenbach, Costa Rica)

they spanned. So far as housing is concerned, the damage was also enormous. Despite the fact that the buildings involved were in general light and flexible in construction, the force of the earthquake destroyed them. In summary, the list of property damage is long and as yet difficult to assess accurately.

None the less, what is important is not to relate what was lost but, rather, to find the moral strength, and I would say also the physical strength, that to a great extent comes from friendly nations, in order to confront the task of reconstruction. With the help of all, we shall be able to rebuild our Atlantic region.

(Mr. Tattenbach, Costa Rica)

Before concluding, I cannot fail to express, on my own behalf and that of my delegation, my solidarity with, and sympathy for, the great people and the Government of the United States in respect of the violent storms which have struck there in recent days.

As in the case of Costa Rica, I think that the great moral resources of the American people will help mitigate the damage caused by nature and take full charge of the situation. We hope that in this case, as in our own, peace between nature and mankind will return once more.

Mr. HEART (Panama) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish first of all in my brief comments to say how very pleased my delegation is to see you, Mr. President, at the forefront in guiding the work of the resumed forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, and to congratulate you on your successful discharge of your difficult responsibilities. Secondly, we wish to thank you very much indeed for the interest you have shown both in our brother country, Costa Rica, and in our own country, Panama, by referring to the grave natural disaster that affected these two countries so enormously on the 22nd of this month.

Panama is a country which, with a great will to overcome, with great courage and with supreme effort, is rising out of the difficult economic, social and political situation in which it was placed by a dictatorship, and its collateral effects, which lasted 21 years, a dictatorship which was recently eliminated, just a year and four months ago. Also, we are sure that with that same courage, with that same effort, and with the support we are convinced we will be receiving from the international community represented here, we will be able to overcome this situation with our usual proud despatch.

The damage, for a country as small as ours, is great, and our needs are enormous. According to the most recent official figures at our disposal, the

(Mr. Heart, Panama)

areas affected are the provinces which produce our main export products, such as bananas: I am referring to the provinces of Chiriquilas and Bocas del Toro, the latter of which is the most affected by these onslaughts of nature. Our Government has declared the region a natural disaster area. A high percentage of the population in this region are indigenous people, and for our Government, they are one of the main social priorities of the present time.

The places most severely damaged by the earthquake, force 7.5 on the Richter scale, were: Guabito, Changuinola, the island of Colón, Almirante and other places in Bocas del Toro province. The earthquake took 32 lives, 500 people were injured, tens of thousands have suffered losses, public services such as hospitals, schools, electricity, and water have been destroyed. Over 1,000 houses have been destroyed, and the economic losses run into the millions, which is a serious setback to the economic resurgence the Government has been trying to achieve since the fall of the dictatorship.

In conclusion, our delegation would like to express its gratitude to our brother countries of Central America, which, under the spokesmanship of Nicaragua, have taken the fortunate initiative of preparing a draft resolution requesting emergency economic assistance from the United Nations for Costa Rica and Panama. We also express our gratitude to the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for the solidarity they have extended to Costa Rica and Panama by endorsing this draft resolution, and, in like manner, we express our gratitude in advance to the members of the General Assembly for their support, in solidarity with Costa Rica and Panama, when they adopt, by consensus, this request for emergency economic assistance which those two countries need so desperately.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

The PRESIDENT: May I also, on behalf of all the members of the Assembly, extend to the Government and the people of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, struck this morning by an earthquake, our deepest sympathy at this natural disaster, which has caused tragic loss of life and extensive material damage. May I also express the hope that the international community will show its solidarity and respond promptly and generously to any request for help.

Mr. RAZVIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My delegation sincerely thanks you, Sir, and through you, the whole world community, for your expressions of sympathy at the natural disaster which has struck our country. We note with satisfaction the spirit of mutual assistance and support which prevails in the United Nations. We assure you, Sir, that the good feelings of the world community will be conveyed to the Soviet Government and people.

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/45/1004)

The PRESIDENT: Before turning to the next item on our agenda, I should like, in keeping with the established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/45/1004, which contains a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General in which he informs the Assembly that 16 Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter. Document A/45/1004 is available this morning in provisional form only.

I am informed that, since the issuance of the aforementioned document, Grenada has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount

(The President)

specified in Article 19 of the Charter. Consequently, the final version of document A/45/1004 will reflect this situation and list only 15 Member States.

I should like to remind delegations that, under Article 19 of the Charter

"A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contribution due from it for the preceding two full years."

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

(a) REOPENING OF AGENDA ITEMS 17 (h), 79 (b), 118 AND 126 (c)

(b) REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/240 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to invite the attention of members to a note by the Secretary-General (A/45/142/Add.1) informing the General Assembly that he has received notification of the resignation of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee and that, accordingly, the General Assembly will be required to appoint a person to fill the unexpired portion of his term of office.

In order to enable the Assembly to take the required action, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of sub-item (h) of agenda item 17, entitled "Appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee". In the circumstances, may I take it that the Assembly has no objection to reopening consideration of sub-item (h) of agenda item 17?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that, at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, the Assembly allocated this sub-item to the Fifth Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly again wishes to allocate this sub-item to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform members that by letter dated 10 April 1991, addressed to me, the President of the Trade and Development Board has transmitted to me resolution 391 (XXXVII) adopted by the Trade and Development Board regarding a change of the date and venue of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development which had been determined by General Assembly resolution 45/205 of 21 December 1990. The President of the Trade and Development Board requests that the Assembly consider this matter for appropriate action at its resumed session.

It will thus be necessary to reopen consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 79, entitled "Trade and development", in order to enable the General Assembly to take a decision on the new date and venue.

In the circumstances, may I take it that the Assembly has no objection to reopening consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 79?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to propose that this sub-item be considered directly in plenary meeting. If there is no objection, we shall proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Sub-item (b) of agenda item 79 will be considered in plenary meeting on Thursday 2 May, in the morning.

I now wish to inform the Assembly that I have been advised that the Fifth Committee is now in a position to take up the question relating to the conditions of service of members of the Joint Inspection Unit, as the report of the Secretary-General on this matter was recently circulated in document A/C.5/45/75.

(The President)

In order to enable the General Assembly to take the required action, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 118, entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991".

In the circumstances, may I take it that the Assembly has no objection to reopening consideration of agenda item 118?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that, at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, the Assembly allocated this sub-item to the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly again wishes to allocate this sub-item to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I also wish to inform the Assembly that I have been advised that the Fifth Committee has yet to take action on amendments to the Staff Regulations contained in the report of the Secretary-General circulated in document A/C.5/45/3 and corrigendum 1 and addendum 1.

In order to enable the General Assembly to take the required action, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 126, entitled "Other personnel questions".

In the circumstances, may I take it that the Assembly has no objection to reopening consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 126?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that, at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, the Assembly allocated the sub-item to the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the Assembly again wishes to allocate this sub-item to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the Secretary-General's request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the forty-fifth session.

In this connection, a note by and a report of the Secretary-General have been circulated in documents A/45/240 and A/45/240/Add.1. In his note, the Secretary-General, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure, requests that an additional item of an important and urgent character be placed on the agenda, entitled "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991): (a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission; (b) Other activities". Owing to the nature of the item, he also requests that the item be allocated to the Fifth Committee for consideration.

Under the circumstances of the present case, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees that the provision of rule 40 of the rules of procedure, which would require a meeting of the General Committee on the question of the inclusion of an additional item on the agenda, can be waived?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I also take it that the Assembly wishes to include an additional item to read as follows: "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991): (a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission; (b) Other activities", and to allocate that item to the Fifth Committee for consideration?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Chairman of the Fifth Committee will be informed of the decisions just taken concerning the Fifth Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 134 (continued)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/903)

The PRESIDENT: At the request of some delegations, consideration of the report of the Fifth Committee on this item is postponed until Thursday, 2 May.

AGENDA ITEM 117 (continued)

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/714)

(b) LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GHANA (A/45/991)

(c) LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LUXEMBOURG (A/45/999)

(d) LETTER FROM DENMARK, FINLAND, ICELAND, NORWAY AND SWEDEN (A/45/1001)

The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that, by the terms of resolution 45/177, the Assembly decided that it would reconvene for a duration of one week for an in-depth consideration and negotiations of proposals for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

Members will also recall that the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields was issued on 20 November 1990 as document A/45/714.

The Assembly also has before it a letter from the Permanent Representative of Ghana transmitting the formal position paper of the Group of 77 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields (A/45/991), as well as a letter from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg transmitting the formal position paper of the European Community and its 12 member States also on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields

(The President)

(A/45/999). A letter from the representatives of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden transmitting a joint Nordic discussion paper entitled "Reform and restructuring of United Nations economic and social sector" has been issued as document A/45/1001.

In order to allow members to meet in informal consultations with a view to preparing a broad-based resolution, there will be no plenary meeting of the Assembly until Thursday 2 May, in the morning.

(The President)

I should like to thank members for the cooperation extended to the Permanent Representative of Fiji in his capacity as Vice-President of the Assembly, and to me personally, in the consultations concerning agenda item 117.

May I also take this opportunity to request that we do our utmost to conclude those and other related consultations as expeditiously as possible in order to permit the timely issuance of a draft resolution on Wednesday, 1 May, which will enable the Assembly to consider it on Thursday, 2 May. I know I can count on members' understanding and continuing cooperation in this matter.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: Before adjourning the meeting I should like to make an announcement in regard to the Assembly's programme of work for this week.

As I have just informed members, there will be no plenary meetings until Thursday, 2 May. That will allow time for informal consultations on agenda item 117 and for the Fifth Committee to consider the agenda items allocated to it.

On Thursday, 2 May, the Assembly will consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 17 (h), "Appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee"; agenda item 118, "Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991"; agenda item 126 (c), "Other personnel questions"; agenda item 132, "Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group"; agenda item 134, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations"; and agenda item 156, just inscribed on the agenda, "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991). The Assembly will also take up agenda item 79 (b),

(The President)

"Trade and Development", and agenda item 117, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

The Assembly will also consider, under agenda item 86, "Special economic and disaster relief assistance," the question of special emergency assistance to Haiti. I should also like to inform members that I have received a letter dated 26 April 1991 from the representatives of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua advising me that they intend to submit a draft resolution regarding the emergency situation in Costa Rica and Panama. The aforementioned draft resolution has been issued as document A/45/L.45. Agenda itewm 86 will be considered at the same meeting on Thursday, 2 May.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

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A/45/PV.74
6 May 1991

ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 6 May 1991, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. de MARCO (Malta)

- Cyclone in Bangladesh

- Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations: report of the Fifth Committee [134] (continued)

- Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs [17] (continued)

  (h) Appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee: Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

- Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991: Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) [118] (continued)

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- Personnel questions [126] (continued)

  (c) Other personnel questions: report of the Fifth Committee

- Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) [156]

- (a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission: Report of the Fifth Committee

- Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group [132] (continued)

- Development and international economic cooperation [79] (continued)

  (b) Trade and development

- Special economic and disaster relief assistance [86] (continued)

  (a) Report of the Secretary-General

  (b) Draft resolution

- Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations [117] (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

CYCLONE IN BANGLADESH

The PRESIDENT: Before turning to the first item on our agenda for this morning, may I on behalf of all the members of the Assembly extend to the Government and the people of Bangladesh, recently struck by a devastating cyclone, our deepest sympathy at this major natural disaster that has caused tragic loss of life and extensive material damage.

May I also express the hope that the international community will show its solidarity and respond promptly and generously to any request for help.

I now call on the representative of Bangladesh.

Mr. AHMED (Bangladesh): I thank you, Sir, for giving my delegation this opportunity to make a statement at the beginning of today's meeting. We are deeply touched by your words of sympathy and by the sympathy that has been expressed by other members of the Assembly and other delegations.

The cyclone that hit Bangladesh was of catastrophic proportions. We are still trying to collect full information about the damage caused by this most unfortunate and tragic natural calamity. However, from the preliminary reports we have at our disposal it is evident that the damage wrought in this catastrophe has been both colossal and extensive. The cyclone has caused unprecedented human suffering and loss of life and property. Our Government has mobilized all its resources, manpower and administrative apparatus to mitigate the consequences of the disaster, but its magnitude is too great for Bangladesh to cope with the job by itself.

Our Prime Minister, Mrs. Khaleda Zia, has already made an appeal to the international community to come to our help. In the meantime there has been a generous response from many countries, and we are very grateful to all those countries that have come forward so promptly. Many more are making inquiries

(Mr. Ahmed, Bangladesh)

about the nature of the support and the help we need. Some other countries, donor agencies and international organizations are making their own evaluation of the extent of the damage and the nature of the support we need.

Our Finance Minister was here yesterday; he called on the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar. The Secretary-General was kind enough on behalf of the United Nations to assure him of all possible help and to mobilize the entire United Nations machinery and system to come to our help. Already, a delegation from the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator is in Dhaka, the capital of our country, to make an assessment. We are overwhelmed by the support and understanding of the Secretary-General and we are sure that other United Nations agencies also will come to our assistance. The United Nations and other organizations have tendered support in the past, and we are very confident that this unprecedented disaster will bring support in greater measure this time because of the larger proportions of the disaster.

Mr. President, the solidarity you expressed on your own behalf and on behalf of the members here present is a source of great strength and support to us. We deeply appreciate it. We are overwhelmed by your kind words and sympathy. I take this opportunity to convey to you, on behalf of the Government and the suffering people of Bangladesh, our deep gratitude.

In that connection, we are submitting a draft resolution on emergency assistance to Bangladesh. We are confident that it will meet with the unanimous approval of the General Assembly.

We are grateful for and overwhelmed by the Assembly's support and understanding.

AGENDA ITEMS 134 (continued), 17 (continued), 118 (continued), 126 (continued), 156

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/903); AMENDMENT (A/45/L.47)

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:

(h) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/45/866/Add.1)

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/45/900/Add.1)

PERSONNEL QUESTIONS

(c) OTHER PERSONNEL QUESTIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/45/898/Add.1)

FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES ARISING FROM SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991)

(a) UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVER MISSION: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/1006)

The PRESIDENT: I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Shamel Elsayed Nasser of Egypt, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. NASSER (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: As Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee I have the honour, Sir, to appear before the General Assembly under your presidency to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee on the agenda items listed for today's meeting.

With your permission I shall introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee following the order of agenda items as they appear in today's Journal. Before I do so, please permit me to express my appreciation to you, Sir, for the efficient manner in which the General Assembly has already acted under your presidency on the reports of the Fifth Committee on other items allocated to it at the forty-fifth session. It will be recalled that the reports of the

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

Fifth Committee on those items contained 22 draft resolutions and 12 draft decisions, all of which the Committee was able to adopt without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 134, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations", is contained in document A/43/903 of 21 December 1990. The Committee had concluded work on this item before the suspension of the forty-fifth session, although time did not permit its report to be processed for consideration in plenary meeting.

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

For the consideration of the item, the Committee had before it four reports of the Secretary-General, on review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States (A/45/582), support account for peace-keeping operations (A/45/493), the feasibility and cost effectiveness of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items for United Nations peace-keeping activities (A/45/493/Add.1) and use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations (A/45/502). The Committee also had before it a report by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/45/801), dealing with the matters covered in the four reports.

As stated in paragraph 2 of the report of the Fifth Committee, this agenda item was considered by the Committee at its 40th to 43rd and 52nd meetings, on 5, 7, 10, 11 and 21 December 1990. In addition, several informal meetings of the Committee were devoted to it.

I should now like to draw the Assembly's attention to section II of the Committee's report, entitled "Consideration of Proposals".

As stated in paragraph 4 therein, at the 52nd meeting of the Committee, the representative of Ireland submitted, on behalf of itself and 25 other sponsor countries, a draft resolution on Administrative and Budgetary Aspects of the Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Operations (contained in document A/C.5/45/L.25). A procedural motion proposed at the same meeting to defer action on the draft resolution was rejected by 54 votes to 7, with 16 abstentions.

Moreover, the proposal of an amendment to the draft resolution, submitted at the same meeting, was rejected by 52 votes to 3, with 21 abstentions.

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

The draft resolution was adopted by 82 votes to 2, with 9 abstentions, at the same meeting. Accordingly, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution, the text of which is contained in paragraph 8 of the report.

As delegates will have noticed, the draft resolution which is before the Assembly contains several preambular and operative paragraphs. The first three preambular paragraphs recall the three previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the subject, two in 1989 and one in 1990. These are resolution 44/192 of 21 December 1989, resolution 44/49 of 8 December 1989 and resolution 45/75 of 11 December 1990.

The next preambular paragraph mentions the relevant documentation considered by the Committee. In addition, the five remaining preambular paragraphs set out the considerations and the concerns motivating the action taken by the Committee. Among these are: the significant increase in United Nations peace-keeping activities and the resulting increased demands on the human, material and financial resources of the Organization and Member States; the extremely difficult financial situation of some peace-keeping operations and the heavy burden on troop-contributing States; the need to ensure a sound financial and administrative basis for peace-keeping operations; and the need to provide peace-keeping operations with the necessary financial resources, especially those essential for the start-up of such operations.

The draft resolution which is before the delegates has 14 operative paragraphs. I should like to highlight briefly some of these.

In paragraph 1 the General Assembly would continue to urge all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

contributions to peace-keeping operations in full and on time, in accordance with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 concern the efficient and co-ordinated administration of peace-keeping operations, as well as the broadening of the participation of countries in United Nations peace-keeping operations. Paragraph 5 takes note of the observations made by the Secretary-General and the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

In paragraph 6 the Assembly would decide that, as an interim measure, the standard rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States shall be increased by 4 per cent beginning on 1 July 1991.

Paragraphs 7 and 8 deal with the question of voluntary contributions. In paragraph 7 the Assembly would invite States contributing personnel, equipment and services that can afford to do so to consider providing them, in whole or in part, on a voluntary basis. In paragraph 8 it would invite States to make voluntary contributions to United Nations peace-keeping operations both in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/192 A.

Paragraphs 9 and 10, respectively, deal with the use and operation of the support account for peace-keeping operations and the proposals of the Secretary-General to establish a reserve stock of commonly used equipment and supply items for United Nations peace-keeping operations.

In paragraph 11 the Assembly would endorse the proposals made by the Secretary-General on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

operations, taking into account the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Standard administrative procedures to govern the provision of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations would be called for in paragraph 12.

Lastly, in paragraph 13 the Secretary-General would be called upon to report to the General Assembly, as appropriate, on the presentation of data by troop-contributing States on the rates of reimbursement, the support account for peace-keeping operations, the reserve stock of commonly used equipment and supply items and the use of civilians in peace-keeping operations. The Assembly would also decide, in paragraph 14, to include the subject in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session.

I now call the attention of delegates to document A/45/866/Add.1, which contains the report of the Fifth Committee on item 17 (h) dealing with the appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee. The Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint Mr. Leonid E. Bidny as a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for a term of office beginning on the date of adoption of the decision by the General Assembly and ending on 31 December 1991.

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

With regard to agenda item 126 (c), "Other personnel questions", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/45/898/Add.1. The draft resolution in paragraph 6 of that report was adopted by the Committee without a vote. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of this draft resolution.

Under agenda item 118, "Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991", the Fifth Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials - members of the Joint Inspection Unit. The Fifth Committee's report appears in document A/45/900/Add.1. As stated in paragraph 4 of this report, the Committee decided without objection to recommend to the General Assembly that it defer to the forty-sixth session consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on this matter. The recommendation of the Committee is contained in paragraph 5 of the report.

Under agenda item 156, "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991)", the Fifth Committee, at its 53rd to 56th meetings, from 29 April to 2 May 1991, considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Committee's report on this matter is before the Assembly in document A/45/1006. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution in paragraph 6 of its report. The Committee's decision on this draft resolution was reached without a vote.

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

Finally, I turn to agenda item 132, "Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group". I wish to inform the Assembly that the Fifth Committee considered this item at its 53rd to 56th meetings, from 29 April to 2 May 1991. It agreed that work on this matter should be continued by the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and that the Fifth Committee itself should continue informal consultations with a view to reaching a decision.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I also remind delegations that, again in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

(The President)

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed with the voting in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee, except in those cases where delegations have already notified the Secretariat that they wish to proceed otherwise.

The Assembly will first consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/903) on agenda item 134, entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 8 of that report. In this connection, the Assembly has before it an amendment to the draft resolution. That amendment is contained in document A/45/L.47.

I now call on the representative of Ireland, who wishes to introduce the amendment.

Mr. CONMY (Ireland): I have the honour to inform the General Assembly that, following further consultations, agreement has been reached to facilitate the adoption of the draft resolution on this agenda item without a vote.

In accordance with that agreement, I have the honour to propose the inclusion in the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8 of document A/45/903 of a new operative paragraph as contained in document A/45/L.47.

I should like to acknowledge the constructive approach and goodwill of delegations that have led to this welcome outcome. Consensus is important to the work of the General Assembly, and in particular to the work of the Fifth Committee. This is especially the case when it comes to peace-keeping activities of the Organization.

(Mr. Conmy, Ireland)

In accordance with the agreement reached, I propose that the amendment in document A/45/L.47 be adopted without a vote and that the draft resolution in paragraph 8 of document A/45/903, as amended, also be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will first take a decision on the amendment in document A/45/L.47 to the draft resolution in paragraph 8 of document A/45/903. This amendment would become operative paragraph 14 of the draft resolution.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt that amendment?

The amendment was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 8 of the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/903), as a whole, as amended, that is, with a new operative paragraph 14; the old operative paragraph 14 will become paragraph 15.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution as a whole as amended?

The draft resolution, as a whole, as amended, was adopted (resolution 45/258).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 134.

I now invite members to turn their attention to part II of the report of the Fifth Committee, on sub-item (h) of agenda item 17, entitled "Appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee" (A/45/866/Add.1).

In paragraph 4 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint Mr. Leonid Bidny as a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for a term of office beginning on 3 May 1991 and ending on 31 December of the same year.

May I take it that the General Assembly appoints this person?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our consideration of sub-item (h) of agenda item 17.

We turn now to part II of the report (A/45/900/Add.1) of the Fifth Committee, on agenda item 118, "Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991".

In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly defer to the forty-sixth session consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for

(The President)

officials other than Secretariat officials - members of the Joint Inspection Unit.

May I take it that the Assembly adopts this recommendation?

The recommendation was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded that stage of our consideration of agenda item 118.

We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee which pertains to sub-item (c) of agenda item 126, "Other personnel questions" (A/45/898/Add.1).

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of that report. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution entitled "Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/259).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 126.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/45/1006) of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (a) of agenda item 156, entitled "United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of that report. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission" without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/260).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 156.

AGENDA ITEM 132 (continued)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE GROUP

The PRESIDENT: The Rapporteur has informed the Assembly that the Fifth Committee has not concluded its work on this item.

The Assembly will therefore consider the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 132 at a later date, to be announced.

AGENDA ITEM 79 (continued)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

(b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider, under sub-item (b) of agenda item 79, the question of the change in the date and venue of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

In this connection, a draft resolution has been issued as document A/45/L.46.

We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/45/L.46?

Draft resolution A/45/L.46 was adopted (resolution 45/261).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 79.

AGENDA ITEM 86 (continued)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/1002)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/45/L.45)

The PRESIDENT: Representatives will recall that the General Assembly, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 45/257, requested the Secretary-General to consult the Government of Haiti as soon as possible concerning appropriate initiatives for the launching of a special programme of emergency assistance to Haiti and to inform the Assembly of the outcome of such consultations.

The report of the Secretary-General on special emergency assistance to Haiti has been circulated in document A/45/1002. I am informed that a draft resolution will be submitted and circulated shortly for consideration at an early date.

Representatives will also recall that at our 73rd plenary meeting, held on Monday, 29 April, I informed the Assembly that the representatives of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua had advised me of their intention to submit a draft resolution regarding emergency assistance to Costa Rica and Panama, and that the aforementioned draft resolution had been issued as document A/45/L.45.

I should also like to inform members that a draft resolution on emergency assistance to Bangladesh has now been submitted and will be circulated as document A/45/L.48.

(The President)

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/45/L.45, entitled "Emergency assistance to Costa Rica and Panama".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/45/L.45?

Draft resolution A/45/L.45 was adopted (resolution 45/262).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 86.

AGENDA ITEM 117 (continued)

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The PRESIDENT: In connection with the last item on our agenda for this morning, I very much regret having to inform the Assembly that in spite of the major effort made by all concerned under the committed guidance of our Vice-President, Ambassador Thompson of Fiji, members were unable to conclude their work on the question of the restructuring and revitalizing of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

Consultations are still proceeding. I have been following this matter closely and, from reports I have received, I believe that we may be very close to agreement. I should therefore like to appeal to all concerned to continue their sustained efforts and cooperation to carry this exercise to a successful conclusion as soon as possible. Consideration of this matter is therefore postponed to an early date to be announced.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.